

ALL IN TO BUILD FOR OUR FUTURE

“The God of heaven Himself will prosper us: therefore we His servants will arise and build...So we built...for the people had a mind to work. A good person leaves an inheritance for their children’s children...” **Nehemiah 2:20; 4:6; Proverbs 13:22**
(NKJV)



This Week’s Thought – September 10, 2017

“Do not store up for yourselves [material] treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.”
Matthew 6:19-21 (Amplified Bible)

New, ‘shiny’ things vie for our attention: a new phone, a new outfit, a new car, a new video game, a new piece of jewelry, a new investment opportunity, etc. We possess a cornucopia of material treasures that compete with our modest heavenly treasures. Why? Because we are sometimes short sighted and easily distracted by what makes us feel good in the moment. We are intoxicated by much lesser treasures and miss the true riches of sending our treasures ahead for safe keeping with our Savior. What are some best treasures we can send ahead and see again?

The Treasures of Knowing Jesus and Being Known by Jesus

What value can you place on knowing the One and being known by the One who knows you the best? We are as sons and daughters of the great God and King. We are created to spend more time with Him--who we will spend all of our time with in eternity. All other competing treasures can rot in earth’s trash heap when our heart is all consumed by Christ alone! We treasure the Lord when we treasure what He treasures: worship, prayer, scripture, and people.

“And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did].” (Philippians 3:10, Amplified Bible)

The Treasures of Relationships

What is a soul worth to our Savior Jesus? His life and death for sure, and perhaps ours. Jesus loved people. He forgave people. He fed people. He saved people. He healed people. He comforted people. He was all about people! He built relationships with His disciples so they would love each other well and love others well. Friends and enemies felt Christ’s love.

How can we value relationships well? Investment of time, money and emotional energy is a real good start. Understanding another’s needs, and prayerfully connecting them with the most appropriate resources. Sometimes the best approach in a relationship is a polite “no”, with a helpful alternative, or a thoughtful “maybe” based on your ability to serve well, or an energetic “yes” because you are totally at peace being a conduit for Christ. Relational growth happens intentionally and in life’s messiness. Our love for people is evidence of our love for God.

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.” (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

The Treasures of Generosity

He gave us His son and He still gives us His son, so gratefully we serve our radically generous God! In what ways does Christ call us to be generous? Certainly our life is a living sacrifice for the Lord. Each day we have the privilege to lay our agenda on the altar of obedience, allow the fire of the Holy Spirit to burn it up and then pick up God’s game plan ignited by the same fire!

“So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.” (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

Where your treasure is, your heart will follow, so treasure the best treasures!

Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: “Dear God, I come to You in total expectation of the very best You have to offer. I believe in miracles because I believe in You. I do not come to You in desperation, but in gratitude and excitement of the result given to me ahead of any need. I live each of my days in prayer, going to You first each day to prepare me for my blessed life. I am grateful and thankful for every moment spent in Your glorious Presence. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!”

“And then God answered: “Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what’s coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn’t lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It’s on its way. It will come right on time.” Habakkuk 2:2-3 (MSG)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King